

# Housing Opportunities Committee

## MINUTES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

7:30 PM

Virtual meeting via Zoom

### **Members present:**

Roberta Anderson

Anita Brown

Kathy Hull

Rich Kalinka

Jim Mandella

Liz Yoho

### **Members not present:**

Kathleen DiTullio

### **Ex Officio members present:**

Selectman Khris Hall

Tomas Kavaliauskas- Zoning Commission

### **Ex Officio member not present:**

Cory Neumann

**Guest:** Dave Goldenberg- Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee Chairman

**Call To Order** Chairman Anita Brown called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Correspondence and Announcements-** Anita Brown spoke of a statement on community housing that was submitted by the Office of the First Selectmen on May 24, 2022 and encouraged committee members to review it.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Kathy Hull made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2022 meeting as presented. Jim Mandella seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **New Business**

**Guest Speaker-** Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee Chairman Dave Goldenberg was the guest speaker at the meeting and spoke of the challenges and successes of the Affordable Housing Committee in Ridgefield, CT. He gave advice to the members which included setting up a Facebook page, conducting stakeholder interviews, accumulating data and making presentation to other Town boards. He encouraged the committee to review the Town's Zoning Regulations. He warned the committee not to rely too much on data from the 2020 census it could be flawed due to the pandemic.

There was a discussion of funding for the committee and possible grants from the Department of Housing. The committee also asked about septic tanks and the potential sewer project and how that

can affect affordable housing developments. It was noted that the proposed sewer plan is based on current Zoning Regulations and does not take into effect possible multi dwelling developments.

### **Discussion of potential actions**

It was suggested that the committee work with the Zoning Commission and the Zoning Enforcement Officer to see how the rewrite of the Zoning Regulations will include Affordable Housing. A consultant will be hired by the Zoning Commission to review ordinances in the near future.

Subcommittees- Kathy Hull and Liz Yoho volunteered to work on engaging the community for suggestions and opinions. Jim Mandella will research other towns and will check with Town Hall to see what open spaces are available.

### **Discussion of inviting Connecticut Department of Housing Office of Policy and Research and Support to a future meeting**

It was decided to invite Connecticut Department of Housing Office of Policy and Research Director and Support Michael Santoro to the July 5th meeting. It was noted that this should be a Zoom meeting due to the distance. Members were encouraged to watch the recording of the presentation that Mr. Santoro gave to the Commission on the Aging last year. There was a brief discussion of encouraging other speakers to future committee meetings.

### **Old Business**

#### **Committee Operation and Rule- Discussion of Public Comment time allotment**

There was a discussion of public comment at future meetings and whether or not there should be a time limit and how it will be enforced.

Rich Kalinka made a motion to limit public comment for future meetings to 5 minutes per speaker. Jim Mandella seconded the motion.-**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

#### **Board member comments**

Anita Brown suggested that the committee develop a Facebook page. This will be done some time in the future.

Jim Mandella asked about two family homes in town.

Selectman Khris Hall spoke of the Plan of Conservation and Development that is required to be done every ten years. It was decided that Roberta Anderson will reach out to Planning Commission member Cory Neumann for more information regarding the POCD.

#### **Public Comment-** None

#### **Adjournment**

Jim Mandella made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm. Roberta Anderson seconded the motion.  
**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos

*HOC  
06/07/22  
Page 2 of 2*

Received by email on 06/13/2022 @ 11:01 a.m.  
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield